

South Australian Museum Archives

How to research your Aboriginal family history

Before contacting the South Australian Museum Archives or Family History teams please search the collections that are available on the South Australian Museum website:

<http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au/collection/archives/accessing-the-archives>

The majority of the collections have not yet been indexed, including the genealogies and Board for Anthropological Data cards. The current list is available on the website. Please note that the majority of corporate records dating pre-1940 were transferred to State Records of South Australia.

Submitting a request for access to the collections

You will be required to provide your request in writing with the following details:

1. The name/s and place of birth of the person or people you are researching. Upon receipt of email you will be sent a Family History Application Form. Alternatively, you can download a Family History Application Form from the website.
2. Your name, organisation (if applicable), and contact details (postal address, telephone and email address).
3. Any Archive collection numbers.

Once your request is received it will be assessed. If access is approved, then the following processes will take place:

1. To view the archival material, you will need to make an appointment at least two weeks prior to your visit. The Reading Room is open between 10.00 – 4.00pm Monday to Friday.
2. If you require reproductions you will be required to complete relevant forms.
3. For collections relating to Aboriginal people who are not of your direct lineage you may need the written consent of a family representative or representative body relevant to the material before it is provided.

Fees may be applied, and if applicable then you will be invoiced.

Once the forms have been completed with any associated documentation if applicable and payment received the items will be supplied in digital format either via email, posted DVD, or Dropbox.